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putting **consumers** first

National Consumer Agency

Prescription Medicines Price Study

March 2013



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1 Introduction

This report documents the results of a National Consumer Agency (NCA) nationwide study of prescription medicines. The survey involved the collection of prices charged by pharmacies to private customers for 42 common prescription medicines. The survey also sought to determine pharmacists' policies in relation to dispensing fees.

The present study is the latest in the NCA's series of pricing and price transparency surveys. Table 1 details the price surveys undertaken since May 2010. The NCA advocates for and works towards the provision of transparent pricing information wherever reasonable and possible in the supply of both consumer goods and services. This work is done in the belief that such information empowers consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions, aids those seeking to obtain better value and should ultimately promote competition as informed and empowered consumers are more likely to play an active role in markets.

Table 1 Previous NCA Surveys

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Published</i>	<i>Price Display</i>	<i>Prices/Fees Charged</i>
<i>Prepaid Payment Products</i>	<i>October 2012</i>		✓
<i>Home Heating Oil</i>	<i>September 2012</i>		✓
<i>Solicitors</i>	<i>February 2012</i>	✓	✓
<i>Opticians</i>	<i>October 2011</i>	✓	✓
<i>Home Heating Oil</i>	<i>September 2011</i>		✓
<i>Branded Grocery Products</i>	<i>July 2011</i>		✓
<i>Driving Lessons</i>	<i>April 2011</i>		✓
<i>Childcare Providers</i>	<i>February 2011</i>	✓	✓
<i>Wood Pellets</i>	<i>December 2010</i>		✓
<i>Baby Care Products</i>	<i>October 2010</i>		✓
<i>Home Heating Oil</i>	<i>September 2010</i>		✓
<i>Branded Grocery Products</i>	<i>August 2010</i>		✓
<i>Doctors and Dentists</i>	<i>May 2010</i>	✓	✓

Although pharmacists offer a wide range of services, this survey focuses on the prices charged for prescription medicines to private customers, as opposed to prescription medicines which are funded, in part or full, via any of the State medical drug schemes. The prescription medicines which were included were specific branded medicines; for the purposes of making a fair comparison, substitution to generics or otherwise was not permitted in this study. The methodology utilised is set out in full in Section 2.

It is important to note that price is only one of the relevant factors considered by consumers when choosing a pharmacy. Other important considerations are likely to include familiarity/previous relationship with the pharmacist, location, accessibility and opening hours. The NCA, however, is firmly of the view that consumers should have access to routine pricing information so that they can make a fully informed choice and it is with this in mind that the present study was conducted.

The pharmacies surveyed by the NCA are not named in this report. The purpose of the survey is not to provide details of the commercial practices of individual pharmacies. Rather its objective is to identify general trends in the area of price levels amongst this group of service providers.

The NCA would like to thank the respondents for the time given in the course of this study.

2 Methodology

The NCA undertook a nationwide survey of pharmacists in February 2013 to determine the prices charged to private customers for 42¹ common prescription medicines. The methodology used is outlined in this section.

The products included in the survey (see Appendix 1 for the list of medicines) were selected from a list of prescription medicines which was provided to the NCA by the Health Service Executive (HSE). The Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS), within the HSE, provided a list of the most commonly prescribed pharmaceuticals in Ireland which includes strength and the pack size of each product. The PCRS collates statistical data gathered in relation to items for which contractors are reimbursed in accordance with State schemes and the specific survey list was developed from statistical data gathered for 2010. This approach was made on the assumption that the most common medicines provided under State schemes are likely to be similar to those prescribed to private customers. Substitution to alternative or generic products was not permitted in the survey.

The pricing information requested related to the **final cost to a first time private customer for each of the specific medicines, purchased individually on prescription**. It is important to reiterate that the study did not include any prices which may be charged to individuals who are in receipt of State funding for prescription medicines. All prices were to be correct as of 6th February 2013. The quotes received have not been audited in any way; they were taken in good faith and at face value.

The list of pharmacies was compiled using various sources including the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland's website, the HSE website and general web searches. In order for the study to be robust and reflect an accurate description of the levels of price variation in the sector across the country, a large cross section of independent pharmacies and pharmacy

¹ 42 products were included in the survey however three products were excluded due to non-availability of comparable information. The three products listed in Appendix 1 which were excluded are Nu-Seals Aspirin Tabs 75 Mg, Augmentin-Duo Tabs 500/125 Mg and Omacor Caps 1000 Mg. Therefore the results are presented in relation to 39 prescription medicines throughout the report.

chains were selected for inclusion. In all the number of stores surveyed totalled 132; consisting of 88 independent stores and 44 chain stores.

On 31st January 2013 a letter containing details of the survey, including the questionnaire listing the prescription medicines, was sent to each pharmacy selected to participate. Participants were requested to return the completed questionnaire by a means most convenient to them namely, post, email or fax.

In advance of the survey date of 6th February, NCA staff telephoned each pharmacy to remind them that the survey was taking place and to answer any queries which pharmacists might have had. An offer was also made to email a copy of the questionnaire if it would be more convenient. From 12th to 25th February, NCA staff contacted each pharmacist, who had not returned a completed questionnaire, at least once, to follow up on outstanding responses and answer any remaining queries.

3 Prescription Medicines Price Study – Results

As per Section 2, 132 pharmacy stores were selected for inclusion and from those, information was received from 45 (34%). Information was not received from 87 (66%) of the stores surveyed for the following reasons; refusal to participate/no further details provided, “too busy”, “didn’t see the benefit of participating” and/or confidentiality concerns.

Details of the prices charged for the prescription medicines included in the study are presented in Section 3.1 and 3.2. Section 3.3 documents the results in relation to dispensing fees. The results are presented at national level and for five urban centres; Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford. The national results are based on all results received from the nationwide study and not just from a compilation of the results from the main urban centres.

3.1 Prices Charged for Prescription Medicines

Substantial variation in the prices charged for prescription medicines was found both nationally and within each of the local areas surveyed. At national level the percentage difference found in the prices of 39 individual prescription medicines ranged from 37% to 199%, the average percentage difference was 56%. The results for the five local comparisons are presented in Table 2 and Figure 1. More detailed pricing information, nationally and regionally, is detailed in Appendix 2.

Table 2 Minimum, Maximum and Average Price Variation in Prescription Medicines

	National	Dublin	Cork	Limerick	Galway	Waterford
Number of Pharmacies	45	7	7	5	4	7
Minimum Price Variation	37%	34%	15%	11%	15%	13%
Maximum Price Variation	199%	112%	63%	94%	97%	122%
Average Price Variation	56%	44%	29%	29%	30%	27%

For local areas the key findings include:

- Dublin was found to have the highest average price variation at 44%, Waterford had the lowest average price variation at 27%.
- In Dublin across the 39 products surveyed, the minimum price variation for any individual product was found to be 34%.
- The maximum percentage price variation within a region for a single prescription medicine was found in Waterford at 122% (or €27.26), namely “*Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)*”. The second highest percentage price variation for a single prescription medicine within a region was found in Dublin at 112% (or €22.37), namely “*Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)*”.

Figure 1 Minimum, Maximum and Average Price Variation in Prescription Medicines

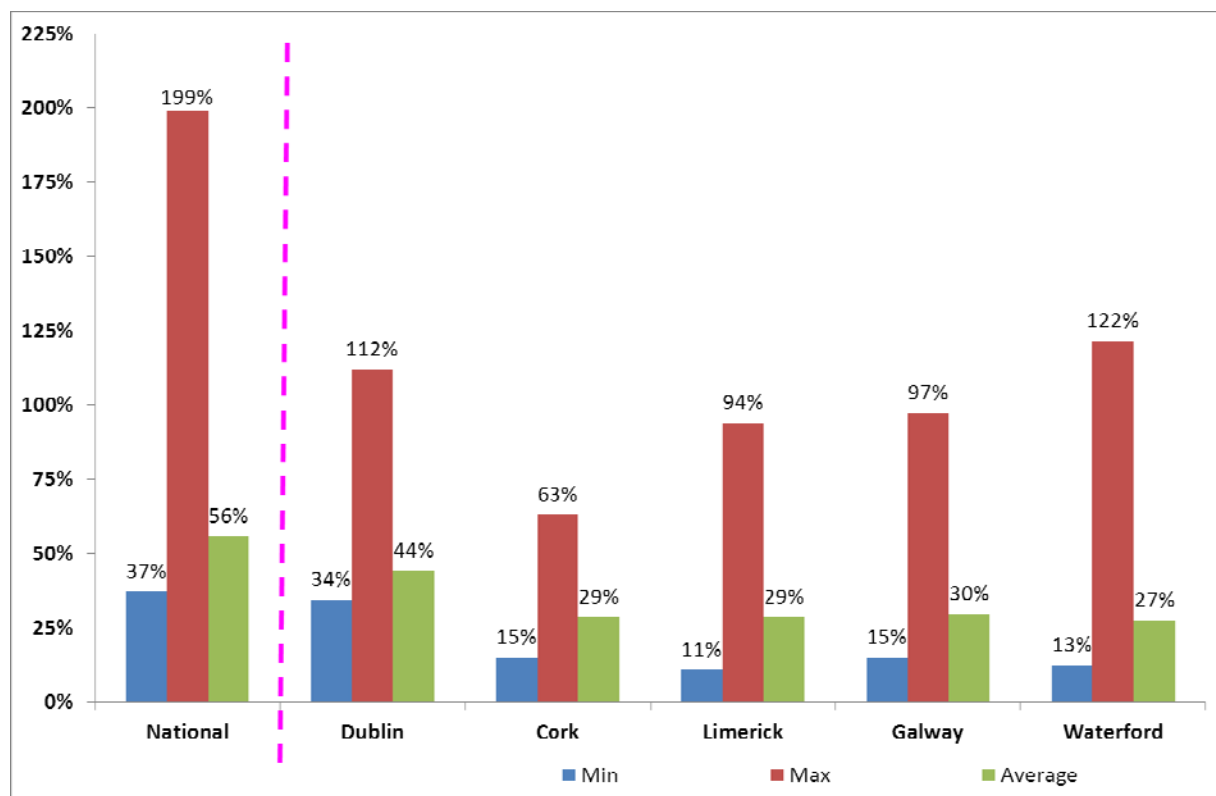


Table 3 and Figure 2 below illustrate the grouped distribution of the percentage price variation found in the five local areas. The main results include:

- All 39 products in the Dublin area had a price variation of greater than 30%, with 15 of the products having a price variation of over 40%.
- 38.4% (15) of the products had a price variation of greater than 30% in Galway, with eight of the products having a price variation of over 40%.
- 35.9% (14) of the products had a price variation of greater than 30% in Limerick, the corresponding figures for Cork and Waterford are 33.3% and 25.6% respectively.

Table 3 Range of Price Variation in Prescription Medicines

	Dublin	Cork	Limerick	Galway	Waterford
Price Variation Ranges	% (Number) of products				
Less than 20%	0	28.2% (11)	33.3% (13)	41% (16)	41% (16)
20% - 30%	0	38.5% (15)	30.8% (12)	20.5% (8)	33.3% (13)
31% - 40%	61.5% (24)	17.9% (7)	23.1% (9)	17.9% (7)	17.9% (7)
Greater than 40%	38.5% (15)	15.4% (6)	12.8% (5)	20.5% (8)	7.7% (3)

Figure 2 Range of Price Variation in Prescription Medicines

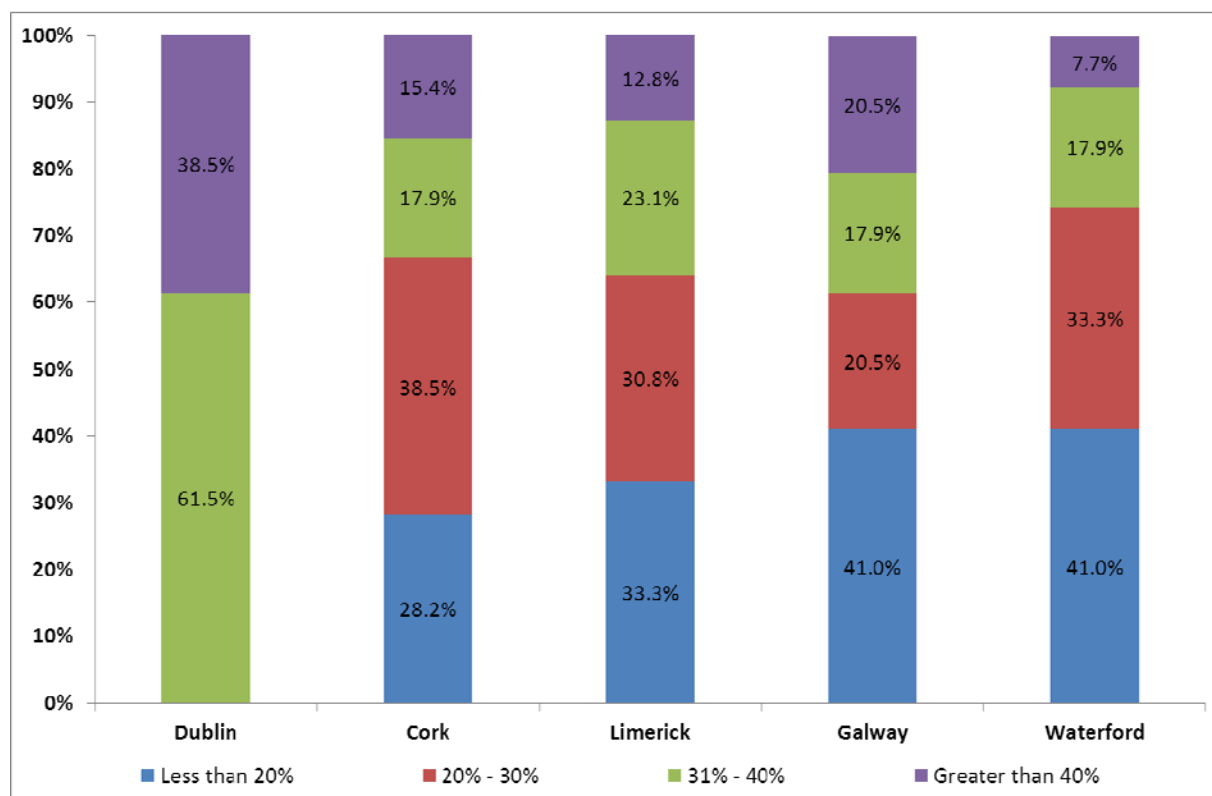


Table 4 presents the results for the three prescription medicines which had the largest price variation nationally and across the five main urban centres included in the study.

Table 4 Largest Percentage Price Variation in Prescription Medicines

	Prescription Medicine	Price (€)		Difference	
		Lowest	Highest	(€)	(%)
Nationally	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	16.62	49.69	33.07	199%
	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	19.96	42.33	22.37	112%
	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7.41	15.65	8.24	111%
Dublin	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	19.96	42.33	22.37	112%
	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	22.06	43.35	21.29	97%
	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	4.90	8.27	3.37	69%
	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	16.62	28.02	11.40	69%
Cork	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	5.07	8.27	3.20	63%
	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	93.17	134.33	41.16	44%
	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	74.73	106.67	31.94	43%
	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	14.12	20.15	6.03	43%
Limerick	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	21.46	41.64	20.18	94%
	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	23.56	42.66	19.10	81%
	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	5.06	8.27	3.21	63%
Galway	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	19.42	38.30	18.88	97%
	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	4.50	8.27	3.77	84%
	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	6.03	9.39	3.36	56%
Waterford	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	22.43	49.69	27.26	122%
	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	9.26	15.65	6.39	69%
	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	93.17	133.33	40.16	43%

3.2 Overall Price Levels

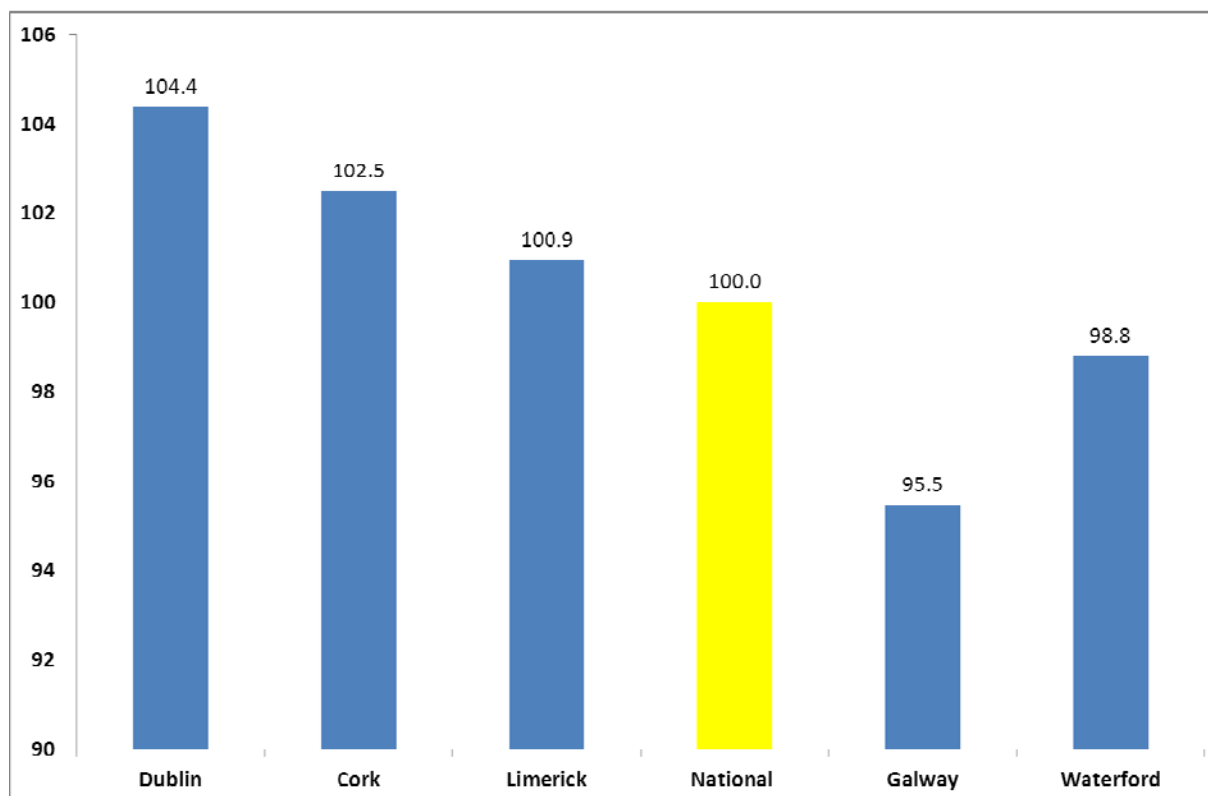
The NCA notes that no individual would purchase all of the 39 prescription medicines included in the study, however the summation of individual average prescription product prices gives an indication of relative costs for medicines across the areas surveyed. This comparison is presented in Table 5 and as a price index where the national total is set at 100 in Figure 3.

Dublin was found to be the most expensive area, 4.4% above the national average with Galway recording the lowest average prices at 4.5% less than national average prices.

Table 5 Summation of the Individual Average Prescription Prices

	National	Dublin	Cork	Limerick	Galway	Waterford
Summation of the individual average prescription prices	€1,034.63	€1,079.89	€1,060.35	€1,044.44	€987.76	€1,022.20

Figure 3 Price Index for Selected Prescription Medicines by Region, National = 100



3.3 Dispensing Fees

In general, the final price of prescription medicines consists of the wholesale price² plus a retail mark-up as well as a dispensing fee. For private customers individual pharmacies are free to set the retail mark-up and the dispensing fee at any level they feel is appropriate.

As part of the study participants were asked if they operated a policy of charging a standard dispensing fee and if so the level of these fees. It was found that different pharmacies apply different dispensing fee policies, outlined as follows:

- some pharmacies charge a zero mark-up on prescription medicines and apply a standard dispensing fee,
- others apply a combination of dispensing fee and retail mark-up with some:
 - having one standard dispensing fee, for others
 - the dispensing fee varies with the price of the prescription medicine.

Pharmacies also indicated that they may waive the dispensing fee on certain prescription medicines, or use their discretion when applying dispensing fees. For those that apply a dispensing fee, the survey found that it ranges from €3.15 to €7.00.

² Price at which the pharmacy receives the products.

4 Key Findings

The main results of the NCA's study of the prices charged for prescription medicines to private customers, with prices correct as of 6th February are as follows:

- Large variations in prices of prescription medicines were found both nationally and in local urban areas.
- Nationally the percentage difference in prices of individual prescription medicines ranged from 37% to 199%, the average percentage difference was 56%.
- The largest percentage variation in price for a single prescription medicine within an area, 122% (or €27.26), for the product "*Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)*" was found in Waterford. The second highest percentage price variation within a region was found in Dublin at 112% (or €22.37), for the product "*Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)*".
- In Dublin across the 39 products surveyed, the minimum price variation for an individual product was found to be 34%, with the average price variation found to be 44%.
- The average price variation of the 39 prescription medicines included in the study was 30% and 27% for Galway and Waterford areas respectively. The corresponding figure for both Cork and Limerick is 29%.
- When the average prices of all 39 products were aggregated, Dublin was found to be the most expensive area surveyed at 4.4% above the national average. Galway was the least expensive with average prices 4.5% less than the national average.
- In relation to dispensing fees it was found that a range of different policies apply across pharmacies, from a standard dispensing fee to the dispensing fee varying with the price of the prescription medicines and in some instances a dispensing fee is not charged. For pharmacies that apply a dispensing fee it ranged from €3.15 to €7.00.

Appendix 1: Survey Questionnaire

Name of Pharmacy	
Address	
Contact Name and Number (if case of need to query details submitted)	

- The pricing information inserted below should relate to the **final cost**, to a first time private customer.
- Each of the products is purchased **on prescription**.
- The price required is for the purchase of each item individually.
- The price should be inclusive of VAT, dispensing fee and any other charges associated with the purchase of the item.
- No product substitution is permitted.
- Prices should be correct as at **Wednesday 6th February 2013**.

Product Number	Product Name	Pack Size	Cost to Private Consumer
1	Nu-Seals Aspirin Tabs 75 Mg	28	
2	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg	28	
3	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg	28	
4	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg	28	
5	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg	1	
6	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg	28	
7	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg	56	
8	Istin Tabs 5 Mg	28	
9	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg	1	
10	Losec Mups 20 Mg	28	

Product Number	Product Name	Pack Size	Cost to Private Consumer
11	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg	28	
12	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg	28	
13	Augmentin-Duo Tabs 500/125 Mg	14	
14	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs	60	
15	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg	28	
16	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg	30	
17	Protium Tabs 40 Mg	28	
18	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg	28	
19	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg	1	
20	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg	28	
21	Tenormin-50 Tabs	28	
22	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg	28	
23	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg	28	
24	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg	28	
25	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg	28	
26	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg	100	
27	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg	84	
28	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg	7	
29	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg	28	
30	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg	28	
31	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg	28	
32	Omacor Caps 1000 Mg	28	
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg	100	
34	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg	4	
35	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg	28	
36	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg	1	
37	Zydol Caps 50 Mg	100	
38	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg	28	
39	Difene Spray Gel 4 %	25	
40	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg	28	
41	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg	28	
42	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg	28	

Information in relation to Dispensing Fee

Do you have a standard dispensing fee per item? Yes/No	
How much is this dispensing fee?	
Do you display your dispensing fee(s) at your premises? Yes/No	
<p>Please provide any additional information in relation to your dispensing fee policy (feel free to provide additional information on a separate sheet if required).</p>	

Appendix 2: Detailed Pricing Results – Nationally and Regionally

Prescription Medicine Survey - National Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	45	45.18	54.22	38.79	15.43	40%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	45	21.55	24.91	18.12	6.79	37%
3	Cardura Xl Tabs 4 Mg (28)	45	15.84	17.98	13.03	4.95	38%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	45	14.88	16.82	12.19	4.63	38%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	45	26.90	43.57	22.06	21.51	98%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	45	19.05	21.94	15.94	6.00	38%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	28.99	34.16	24.91	9.25	37%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	45	15.80	18.19	12.46	5.73	46%
9	*Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	44	16.41	20.15	13.83	6.32	46%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	45	20.58	23.85	17.34	6.51	38%
11	Efexor Xl Caps 75 Mg (28)	45	20.84	24.63	17.74	6.89	39%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	45	9.64	15.65	7.41	8.24	111%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	45	24.24	28.28	20.60	7.68	37%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	45	59.91	79.78	51.42	28.36	55%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	45	13.13	14.77	10.66	4.11	39%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	45	16.50	20.85	13.52	7.33	54%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	33.86	40.88	29.17	11.71	40%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	23.71	27.65	20.13	7.52	37%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	45	22.18	38.30	18.43	19.87	108%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	45	24.34	49.69	16.62	33.07	199%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	45	109.42	135.34	93.17	42.17	45%
22	Nebilex Tabs 5 Mg (28)	45	13.85	15.61	11.29	4.32	38%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	45	31.43	37.30	22.81	14.49	64%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	45	44.27	53.21	38.82	14.39	37%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	45	24.00	27.98	20.37	7.61	37%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	45	84.09	106.67	71.60	35.07	49%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	49.86	60.11	42.60	17.51	41%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	45	15.14	17.15	12.00	5.15	43%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	9.19	10.32	7.00	3.32	47%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	45	71.46	86.89	61.54	25.35	41%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	45	8.09	9.39	6.03	3.36	56%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	45	14.22	16.03	11.60	4.43	38%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	45	6.79	8.27	4.50	3.77	84%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	45	8.85	10.38	6.00	4.38	73%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	45	8.24	9.48	6.14	3.34	54%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	45	10.39	11.50	7.00	4.50	64%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	45	24.67	42.33	19.96	22.37	112%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	45	16.54	18.77	13.60	5.17	38%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	45	10.56	11.63	8.37	3.26	39%
	* Only 44 of 45 stores priced this product						

Prescription Medicine Survey - Dublin Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	7	47.57	54.01	38.79	15.22	39%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	22.26	24.71	18.12	6.59	36%
3	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg (28)	7	16.22	17.77	13.03	4.74	36%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	15.22	16.62	12.19	4.43	36%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	7	28.81	43.35	22.06	21.29	97%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	7	19.56	21.43	15.94	5.49	34%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	30.07	33.96	24.91	9.05	36%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	7	16.16	17.98	12.46	5.52	44%
9	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	7	16.60	19.04	13.95	5.09	36%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	7	21.29	23.65	17.34	6.31	36%
11	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg (28)	7	21.32	24.43	17.92	6.51	36%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	9.67	10.55	7.41	3.14	42%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	7	25.02	28.08	20.60	7.48	36%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	7	64.08	79.78	51.42	28.36	55%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	13.46	14.57	10.66	3.91	37%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	7	16.82	18.43	13.52	4.91	36%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	35.55	40.88	29.17	11.71	40%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	24.57	27.45	20.13	7.32	36%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	22.49	25.13	18.43	6.70	36%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	7	23.58	28.02	16.62	11.40	69%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	7	116.56	134.13	93.17	40.96	44%
22	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	14.20	15.41	11.29	4.12	36%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	32.89	37.09	27.21	9.88	36%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	7	46.80	53.01	38.91	14.10	36%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	7	24.89	27.78	20.37	7.41	36%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	7	89.12	106.47	74.73	31.74	42%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	52.62	59.91	42.60	17.31	41%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	7	15.54	16.95	12.42	4.53	36%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	9.28	10.32	7.16	3.16	44%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	7	75.99	86.69	61.54	25.15	41%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	7	8.12	9.39	6.13	3.26	53%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	14.55	15.83	11.60	4.23	36%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	7	6.66	8.27	4.90	3.37	69%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	9.18	10.38	7.34	3.04	41%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	7	8.23	9.48	6.24	3.24	52%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	7	10.63	11.33	8.26	3.07	37%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	7	26.60	42.33	19.96	22.37	112%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	7	16.94	18.57	13.60	4.97	37%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	7	10.75	11.43	8.37	3.06	37%

Prescription Medicine Survey - Cork Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	7	46.41	54.22	38.79	15.43	40%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	21.98	24.91	20.22	4.69	23%
3	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg (28)	7	16.29	17.98	15.38	2.60	17%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	15.31	16.82	14.46	2.36	16%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	7	26.45	30.28	23.29	6.99	30%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	7	19.55	21.94	17.90	4.04	23%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	30.09	34.16	26.39	7.77	29%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	7	16.31	18.19	15.55	2.64	17%
9	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	7	17.05	20.15	14.12	6.03	43%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	7	21.23	23.85	19.15	4.70	25%
11	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg (28)	7	21.24	24.63	19.59	5.04	26%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	9.85	10.55	8.49	2.06	24%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	7	24.97	28.28	22.00	6.28	29%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	7	60.95	71.71	51.42	20.29	39%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	13.58	14.77	12.81	1.96	15%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	7	16.86	18.64	15.91	2.73	17%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	34.77	39.97	30.26	9.71	32%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	24.43	27.65	21.60	6.05	28%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	22.43	25.33	19.77	5.56	28%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	7	24.98	28.22	22.43	5.79	26%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	7	111.23	134.33	93.17	41.16	44%
22	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	14.19	15.61	13.48	2.13	16%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	32.55	37.30	27.83	9.47	34%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	7	45.54	53.21	39.09	14.12	36%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	7	24.78	27.98	22.27	5.71	26%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	7	87.55	106.67	74.73	31.94	43%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	51.12	60.11	42.60	17.51	41%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	7	15.60	17.15	14.72	2.43	17%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	9.53	10.32	8.14	2.18	27%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	7	72.84	86.89	61.54	25.35	41%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	7	8.46	9.39	6.75	2.64	39%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	14.65	16.03	13.82	2.21	16%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	7	7.11	8.27	5.07	3.20	63%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	9.06	10.38	8.38	2.00	24%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	7	8.56	9.48	6.88	2.60	38%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	7	10.78	11.50	9.65	1.85	19%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	7	24.21	27.41	21.45	5.96	28%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	7	16.97	18.77	16.02	2.75	17%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	7	10.89	11.63	9.79	1.84	19%

Prescription Medicine Survey - Limerick Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	5	46.16	53.11	39.81	13.30	33%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	5	21.48	23.51	19.62	3.89	20%
3	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg (28)	5	15.63	16.45	14.53	1.92	13%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	5	14.66	15.30	13.69	1.61	12%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	5	28.74	42.66	23.56	19.10	81%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	5	18.95	20.37	17.44	2.93	17%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	28.96	32.76	26.41	6.35	24%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	5	15.45	16.79	13.96	2.83	20%
9	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	5	15.59	17.56	13.83	3.73	27%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	5	20.59	22.45	18.84	3.61	19%
11	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg (28)	5	20.26	23.23	17.74	5.49	31%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	5	9.29	10.55	8.48	2.07	24%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	5	24.17	26.43	22.10	4.33	20%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	5	60.80	70.31	51.47	18.84	37%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	5	12.93	13.51	12.16	1.35	11%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	5	16.21	17.23	15.02	2.21	15%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	34.45	40.19	30.31	9.88	33%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	23.78	26.25	21.63	4.62	21%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	5	21.79	23.73	19.93	3.80	19%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	5	24.55	28.25	22.05	6.20	28%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	5	113.41	132.93	93.22	39.71	43%
22	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg (28)	5	13.66	14.21	12.79	1.42	11%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	5	31.87	36.03	28.32	7.71	27%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	5	45.26	51.81	39.14	12.67	32%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	5	24.01	26.34	21.87	4.47	20%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	5	84.68	105.27	74.78	30.49	41%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	51.06	58.71	43.74	14.97	34%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	5	14.96	15.75	13.92	1.83	13%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	8.93	10.32	8.13	2.19	27%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	5	73.55	85.49	61.59	23.90	39%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	5	7.76	9.39	6.74	2.65	39%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	5	13.99	14.52	13.10	1.42	11%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	5	6.35	8.27	5.06	3.21	63%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	5	9.09	10.38	8.37	2.01	24%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	5	7.88	9.48	6.87	2.61	38%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	5	10.21	11.33	9.65	1.68	17%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	5	26.71	41.64	21.46	20.18	94%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	5	16.32	17.37	15.10	2.27	15%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	5	10.32	11.42	9.78	1.64	17%

Prescription Medicine Survey - Galway Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	4	43.25	51.80	38.84	12.96	33%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	4	20.53	22.50	19.08	3.42	18%
3	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg (28)	4	15.08	15.65	13.54	2.11	16%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	4	14.20	14.88	12.62	2.26	18%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	4	24.74	27.86	23.38	4.48	19%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	4	18.12	19.52	16.71	2.81	17%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	27.78	31.75	26.44	5.31	20%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	4	14.88	15.79	13.71	2.08	15%
9	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	4	15.46	17.00	14.12	2.88	20%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	4	19.61	21.44	18.24	3.20	18%
11	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg (28)	4	20.32	22.22	18.87	3.35	18%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	4	9.11	10.55	7.42	3.13	42%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	4	23.06	25.87	21.78	4.09	19%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	4	57.19	69.30	51.47	17.83	35%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	4	12.57	13.51	10.97	2.54	23%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	4	15.62	16.22	14.07	2.15	15%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	32.25	37.56	30.00	7.56	25%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	22.32	25.24	20.67	4.57	22%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	4	24.67	38.30	19.42	18.88	97%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	4	23.13	25.81	21.74	4.07	19%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	4	106.25	131.92	93.22	38.70	42%
22	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg (28)	4	13.19	14.07	11.64	2.43	21%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	4	30.02	34.88	27.88	7.00	25%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	4	42.62	50.80	38.82	11.98	31%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	4	22.94	25.57	21.54	4.03	19%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	4	76.42	84.50	71.60	12.90	18%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	47.84	57.70	42.65	15.05	35%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	4	14.46	15.10	12.88	2.22	17%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	8.84	10.32	7.14	3.18	45%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	4	69.08	84.48	61.59	22.89	37%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	4	7.74	9.39	6.03	3.36	56%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	4	13.58	14.35	11.98	2.37	20%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	4	6.36	8.27	4.50	3.77	84%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	4	8.38	10.38	7.34	3.04	41%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	4	7.85	9.48	6.14	3.34	54%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	4	10.03	11.33	8.36	2.97	36%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	4	22.46	25.00	21.09	3.91	19%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	4	15.73	16.36	14.18	2.18	15%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	4	10.12	11.42	8.46	2.96	35%

Prescription Medicine Survey - Waterford Results - Prices as of 6th February 2013							
	Product Name (Pack Size)	Quotes received	Price (€)			Difference	
			Average	Max	Min	(€)	(%)
1	Arcoxia Tabs 90 Mg (28)	7	43.96	53.22	38.79	14.43	37%
2	Becotide Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	21.49	23.91	20.22	3.69	18%
3	Cardura XI Tabs 4 Mg (28)	7	16.04	17.97	15.38	2.59	17%
4	Cipramil Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	15.09	16.82	14.46	2.36	16%
5	Co-Diovan Film Coated Tabs 160/12.5 Mg (28)	7	25.66	29.28	23.29	5.99	26%
6	Coversyl Arginine Tabs 5 Mg (30)	7	19.15	21.29	17.90	3.39	19%
7	Crestor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	28.32	31.69	26.39	5.30	20%
8	Difene Dual Release Caps 75 Mg (56)	7	16.05	18.19	15.55	2.64	17%
9	Difene Spray Gel 4 % (25)	7	16.48	19.29	14.12	5.17	37%
10	Diovan Tabs 80 Mg (28)	7	20.62	22.84	19.15	3.69	19%
11	Efexor XI Caps 75 Mg (28)	7	20.58	23.09	18.59	4.50	24%
12	Emcor Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	10.54	15.65	9.26	6.39	69%
13	Fosamax Once Weekly Tabs 70 Mg (4)	7	24.03	27.28	22.00	5.28	24%
14	Inegy Tabs 10/20 Mg (28)	7	57.59	70.71	51.42	19.29	38%
15	Istin Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	13.42	14.77	12.81	1.96	15%
16	Klacid La Tabs 500 Mg (7)	7	16.59	18.63	15.91	2.72	17%
17	Lexapro Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	33.11	38.97	30.26	8.71	29%
18	Lipitor Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	23.54	26.64	21.60	5.04	23%
19	Lipostat Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	21.71	24.33	19.77	4.56	23%
20	Losec Mups 20 Mg (28)	7	27.51	49.69	22.43	27.26	122%
21	Lyrica Caps 50 Mg (84)	7	105.90	133.33	93.17	40.16	43%
22	Nebilet Tabs 5 Mg (28)	7	14.11	15.61	13.48	2.13	16%
23	Nexium Gastro Resistant Tabs 20 Mg (28)	7	30.93	36.30	27.83	8.47	30%
24	Plavix Tabs 75 Mg (28)	7	43.33	52.21	39.09	13.12	34%
25	Protium Tabs 40 Mg (28)	7	23.86	26.98	22.27	4.71	21%
26	Seretide Evohaler 250 Mcg (1)	7	80.64	86.34	74.73	11.61	16%
27	Singulair Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	48.49	59.11	42.60	16.51	39%
28	Solpadeine Sol. Tabs (60)	7	15.37	17.15	14.72	2.43	17%
29	Stilnoct Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	9.46	10.32	8.98	1.34	15%
30	Symbicort Turbohaler Inhaler 200/6 Mcg (1)	7	69.31	85.89	61.54	24.35	40%
31	Tenormin-50 Tabs (28)	7	8.36	9.39	7.59	1.80	24%
32	Tritace Tabs 10 Mg (28)	7	14.45	16.03	13.82	2.21	16%
33	Valium Tabs 5 Mg (100)	7	6.98	8.27	5.91	2.36	40%
34	Ventolin 100 Evohaler 100 Mcg (1)	7	9.39	10.38	8.38	2.00	24%
35	Xanax Tabs 0.25 Mg (100)	7	8.47	9.48	7.72	1.76	23%
36	Zimovane Tabs 7.5 Mg (28)	7	10.74	11.49	10.20	1.29	13%
37	Zoton Fastab Tabs 30 Mg (28)	7	23.36	26.41	21.45	4.96	23%
38	Zydol Caps 50 Mg (100)	7	16.70	18.77	16.02	2.75	17%
39	Zyloric Tabs 300 Mg (28)	7	10.85	11.63	10.30	1.33	13%